



UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations Quarterly Report for partner organisations (Spring Update) April 2019

UK SMI contents

1. Priorities and Programme of Work

The reviews of the UK SMI Test Procedures are now complete and almost re-issued on the website.

Work is still ongoing on the following high priority syndromic documents:
Set of Gastroenteritis and Diarrhoea documents (B10, B30, B31, V2, V3 and S7)

B62 – Abdominal organ transport fluid testing

B37 – Investigation of blood cultures (for organisms other than *Mycobacterium* species)

B29– Investigation of specimens for screening of MRSA

B55 – Investigation of gastric biopsies for *H. pylori*

B2 – Investigation of eye infections and S3 – Conjunctivitis – work on these two documents are on hold until the syndromic approach for the Gastrointestinal documents have been streamlined.

Some of the other UK SMI virology and quality documents that are being reviewed are as follows:

V30 – Investigation and management of pregnant women exposed to rash illness

V28 – Cytomegalovirus serology

Q02 – Quality assurance in the diagnostic virology and serology laboratory. Work will commence on the review of the UK SMI Identification documents shortly.

2. Website

The top five documents receiving the most web page views since the last quarterly report are:

[B 41: Investigation of urine](#)

[B 28: Investigation of genital tract and associated specimens](#)

[B 37: Investigation of blood cultures \(for organisms other than *Mycobacterium* species\)](#)

[B 57: Investigation of bronchoalveolar lavage, sputum and associated specimens](#)

[B 30: Investigation of faecal specimens for enteric pathogens](#)

3. Consultation

All [open consultations](#) can be found on the Gov.uk website.

4. Recently Issued Documents

The following UK SMI documents have been issued since the last quarterly report:

[TP1 - Example reference strains for UK standards for microbiology investigations test procedures](#)

This overarching test procedure document has been updated and reissued. The section on "*Quality Control Organisms*" has been updated to include validated alternative bacterial NCTC strains that could be used for both the phenotypic tests and EUCAST susceptibility tests. NCPF strains for some phenotypic tests have been added where applicable.

[TP8 - Catalase test](#)

[TP 30: Potassium hydroxide test](#)

[TP 34: Thermonuclease test](#)

[TP 36: Urease test](#)

[TP 38: X and V factor test](#)

5. UK SMI Working Group Meetings and Steering Committee

Past Meetings:

Virology Working Group (16 January 2019)

Bacteriology Working Group (13 February 2019)

Steering Committee Meeting (13 March 2019)

Future meetings:

Chairs Strategy Meeting (8 May 2019)

Joint Working Group (21 June 2019)

Standards Unit Update

6. Membership

Nothing to report

7. New Virology Editor

Dr Matthew Donati has been appointed as the second medical editor who will assist Laura Dexter in editing the virology UK SMI documents. He commenced his role on the 18th March 2019.

8. Lloyd's Register Quality Assessment (LRQA) visit – ISO 9001:2015 assessment

The Standards Unit had a LRQA ISO 9001:2015 renewal visit on the 15th March 2019 and it was successful. There were no non-conformances but there were a few opportunities for improvement which the unit will be looking at to incorporate into our processes. The next ISO surveillance visit has been scheduled for the 5th February 2020.

National Infection Service (NIS) and PHE updates

9. Interim Director of PHE National Infection Service

Professor Sharon Peacock CBE has been named as the interim Director of PHE's National Infection Service, succeeding Professor Derrick Crook in April 2019. As Director of NIS, Sharon will lead on the development of PHE's infections strategy, direct the response to infectious disease outbreaks and continue to ensure a strong focus on the use of sequencing in diagnosing and managing infectious diseases.

10. Authors

This document was prepared on behalf of the Steering Committee by the Standards Unit.

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